

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN, BEN>](mailto:Ben.Washburn@FDA.HHS.gov)  
To: ["R7 Daily Digest" <Group>](#)  
CC:  
Date: 10/1/2014 2:49:32 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 10/1/14

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## OPA Daily Digest for 10/1/14

### Congressional Inquiries:

**Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.)** – Email – 9/5/14: Deed restriction on contaminated property near the Missouri Electric Works site in Cape Girardeau. Due: 9/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

### State Government Inquiries:

**Sen. Gary Romine (Mo.)** – letter – 10/1/14: Questioning high levels of lead in soil in southeastern Missouri. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

### Press Inquiries:

**Inside Washington Publishing** – Doug Obey – 9/30/14: Requested a copy of speech delivered by the regional administrator to the Midwest Energy Policy Conference in St. Louis, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

**KBIA Public Radio, Columbia, Mo.** – Jasmine Lee – 10/1/14: Requesting interview regarding Regional Administrator Karl Brooks' recent guest editorial in the Columbia Tribune on the Clean Water Act. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

### Environmental Stories:

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Letter: Landfill's neighbors deserve to be heard** - 10/1/14 - Regarding "Parents search for answers about sick kids" (Sept. 29). Nuclear waste has been cleaned up in other areas of St. Louis and St. Charles. Why can't it be cleaned up here? Does it just come down to dollars?  
[http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/landfill-s-neighbors-deserve-to-be-heard/article\\_3ed4fff8-3af2-5e7b-b35b-de767f1ee53b.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/landfill-s-neighbors-deserve-to-be-heard/article_3ed4fff8-3af2-5e7b-b35b-de767f1ee53b.html)

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - St. Louis area greenhouse gas emissions rose in 2013** - 9/30/14 - Greenhouse gas emissions from St. Louis-area power plants and factories ticked up last year, mirroring a national trend that saw rising emissions as utilities burned slightly more coal during 2013. [http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/st-louis-area-greenhouse-gas-emissions-rose-in/article\\_c43863db-1816-5d1b-8600-e7ac23530419.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/st-louis-area-greenhouse-gas-emissions-rose-in/article_c43863db-1816-5d1b-8600-e7ac23530419.html)

**Iowa Public Radio - Grassley: Waters of the US factor in Iowa Senate Race** - 9/30/14 - U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, says the proposed Waters of the United States rule could influence voters in November's midterm elections. The Environmental Protection Agency wants to expand the Clean Water Act, to the protests of many in agriculture.  
<http://iowapublicradio.org/post/grassley-waters-us-factor-iowa-senate-race>

**Farm Bureau (news release) - EPA Must Withdraw Irregular, Biased Rulemaking Farm Bureau and Waters Coalition Say** - 9/30/14 - Recent statements by the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the latest Clean Water Act rulemaking violate basic open-government requirements, a group of 63 business and agriculture organizations told the EPA and Congress. [http://www.fb.org/index.php?action=newsroom.news\\_article&id=167](http://www.fb.org/index.php?action=newsroom.news_article&id=167)

**Environmental Health News - Water contaminant linked to children's low IQs** - 9/30/14 - Babies born to mothers with high levels of perchlorate during their first trimester are more likely to have lower IQs later in life, according to a new study. <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2014/sep/perchlorate-water>

**Kansas City Star - As I See It: EPA should uphold law on ethanol** - 9/30/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency has been swarming around agriculture all year like locusts, invading farm fields with new water rules, imposing stifling new coal standards certain to disrupt future energy supplies and placing disguised limits on normal farming activities exempt from regulatory reach. Nothing would be more unfair to rural America than changes now under consideration by EPA concerning the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). <http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/readers-opinion/as-i-see-it/article2355577.html>

**KBIA Mid-Missouri Public Radio, Columbia, Mo. - Local pond rated a high potential hazard by the EPA** - 9/30/14 - Citizens of Columbia need to be extra cautious near a local pond the next time it rains heavily. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rated More's Lake, a local pond at the Columbia Municipal Power Plant, as "high" potential hazard. <http://kbia.org/post/local-pond-rated-high-potential-hazard-epa>

**KRCG Ch. 13, Columbia, Mo. - EPA rates power plant pond as high hazard** - 9/30/14 - pond near Columbia's power plant is a possible hazard. That's according to an EPA report that indicates More's Lake could overflow during a heavy rainstorm. <http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=1103625>

**KQFX Ch. 17/22 - Columbia Water & Light testing lake after report for EPA** - 9/30/14 - After a study done for the Environmental Protection Agency declared a Columbia lake a "high" rating for hazard potential, the city's Water & Light Department is beginning top study just how the lake was built. <http://www.abc17news.com/news/columbia-water-light-testing-lake-after-report-for-epa/28327182>

**Lincoln Journal-Star - Annual peace conference to focus on water issues** - 9/30/14 - Nebraskans for Peace will hold its annual conference Saturday. Water resources will be the subject of the keynote presentation titled "Water and Peace: Is Peace Possible in an Era of Diminishing Water Supplies?" [http://journalstar.com/news/local/annual-peace-conference-to-focus-on-water-issues/article\\_da7e61a0-e169-58d0-8b87-c2abc03d93ce.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/annual-peace-conference-to-focus-on-water-issues/article_da7e61a0-e169-58d0-8b87-c2abc03d93ce.html)

**Wichita Business Journal - Koch spars with Rolling Stone over pollution allegations** - 9/30/14 - Rolling Stone magazine recently published a lengthy article on Koch Industries Inc., primarily taking aim at the Wichita-based company over the issue of pollution. Koch has fired back — and Rolling Stone has responded in kind. <http://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/blog/2014/09/koch-spars-with-rolling-stone-over-pollution.html>

**Lincoln Journal-Star - BNSF runs Bakken oil through Lincoln, 11 eastern Nebraska counties** - 9/30/14 - More than 100 tank cars carrying volatile Bakken oil from North Dakota roll through Lincoln each week. According to information released Tuesday by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, BNSF Railway runs trains carrying Bakken oil from North Dakota through 11 Nebraska counties, including Lancaster. [http://journalstar.com/business/local/bnsf-runs-bakken-oil-through-lincoln-eastern-nebraska-counties/article\\_24f8efbe-6797-571e-aed9-2b39c201254b.html](http://journalstar.com/business/local/bnsf-runs-bakken-oil-through-lincoln-eastern-nebraska-counties/article_24f8efbe-6797-571e-aed9-2b39c201254b.html)

**KGAN Ch. 2 Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Iowa Senate Debate Tackles EPA** – As Iowa farmers are taking to their fields, debate over federal rules and regulations is growing in Iowa's Senate race. Sunday's debate included discussion over EPA-proposed changes to the Clean Water Act, which could cost farmers big money. <http://www.cbs2iowa.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/iowa-senate-debate-tackles-epa-30421.shtml>

**Utility Dive - EPA head says carbon regulations could change after comment period** - 9/29/14 - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy says the public may see some changes to its proposed Clean Power Plan to regulate carbon emissions. Revisions are being developed from input gathered during the agency's public comment period, which EPA has extended by 45 days until Dec. 1. The plan is still on track to be finalized by June 2015. <http://www.utilitydive.com/news/epa-head-says-carbon-regulations-could-change-after-comment-period/314867/>

**Daily Caller - Methane Emissions From Fracking Plummet, But EPA May Impose More Rules** - 9/30/14 - Methane emissions from hydraulic fracturing operations, or fracking, fell 73 percent since 2011, according to data from the Environmental Protection Agency. A welcome development for President Barack Obama's climate plan, but one that may not stop the EPA from imposing more regulations on the oil and gas industry. <http://dailycaller.com/2014/09/30/methane-emissions-from-fracking-plummet-but-epa-may-impose-more-rules/>

**Fortune - Greenhouse gas emissions creep up in the United States** - 9/30/14 - Despite all the talk of solar power and renewables in the United States, greenhouse gas emissions rose slightly in 2013, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The growth was driven by the continued dependence on coal by power plants. <http://fortune.com/2014/09/30/greenhouse-gas-emissions-creep-up-in-the-united-states/>

**Washington Examiner - IG says EPA ignoring sewage chemicals** - 9/30/14 - Environmental Protection Agency officials can't ensure that water resources are safe from the hazardous waste that emanates from sewage facilities, according to a government watchdog. <http://washingtonexaminer.com/ig-says-epa-ignoring-sewage-chemicals/article/2554163>

**Rolling Stone - Inside the Koch Brothers' Toxic Empire** – 9/24/14 - Together, Charles and David Koch control one of the world's largest fortunes, which they are using to buy up our political system. But what they don't want you to know is how they made all that money. <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/inside-the-koch-brothers-toxic-empire-20140924>

**Koch Facts - Response to Rolling Stone Story** – 9/25/14 - When Rolling Stone magazine's Tim Dickinson reached out to us for a story about "a detailed, longitudinal examination of the rise of Koch Industries to become one of the largest private firms in America," we were open and honest with him. <http://www.kochfacts.com/kf/response-to-rolling-stone-story/>

**Rolling Stone - Koch Industries Responds to Rolling Stone – And We Answer Back** – 9/29/14 - "Koch Facts" calls our story "dishonest and misleading." A point-by-point rebuttal. <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/koch-industries-responds-to-rolling-stone-and-we-answer-back-20140929>

**Complex - 10 Things "Rolling Stone" Taught Us About the Koch Brothers** – 9/30/14 - Most people know the Koch brothers as the conservative businessmen who stand for all things white, stodgy, and vaguely malevolent. But if you were to ask most Americans what the Koch brothers actually do, well, I'm willing to bet you'd come up aces. <http://www.complex.com/pop-culture/2014/09/rolling-stone-koch-brothers>

**Nebraska Watchdog - Secret is out: Potentially dangerous oil train shipments roll through NE weekly** - 10/1/14 - Folks in southeastern Nebraska now know what top state officials have known for several months: millions of gallons of dangerous and potentially deadly oil train shipments are traveling through their backyards every week. <http://watchdog.org/174152/oil-train-shipments/?roi=echo3-22638715642-22711626-be7008706c0f6a6e1178e171076e6875>

**Ameren (press release) - Ameren Missouri Announces 20-Year Plan for Cleaner Energy, Including Major Expansions for Solar and Wind Power** - 10/1/14 - Ameren Missouri filed today with the Missouri Public Service Commission its 20-year plan that supports cleaner energy in the state of Missouri, including major expansions of solar and wind power. <http://ameren.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=1333>

**KPLR Ch. 11 St. Louis - Ameren Missouri building solar farm in O'Fallon (video)** - 9/30/14 - Construction crews are getting close to finishing work on Ameren Missouri's new solar power plant in O'Fallon, Missouri. In what used to be a 20 acre beanfield, workers have been building the O'Fallon Renewable Energy Center, an almost six Megawatt power plant, consisting of 19,000 solar panels. Construction is about 80 percent complete. <http://kplr11.com/2014/09/30/ameren-missouri-building-solar-farm-in-ofallon/>

**Associated Press - Oil, rail industries want 7 years to fix tank cars** - 9/30/14 - The oil and railroad industries are urging federal regulators to allow them as long as seven years to upgrade existing tank cars that transport highly volatile crude oil, a top oil industry official said Tuesday. The cars have ruptured and spilled oil during collisions, leading to intense fires. <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/bb0c2f6fc166414580d1a904c50d6def/oil-rail-industries-want-7-years-fix-tank-cars>

**Slate - Bull---- Market | America is overlooking a plentiful renewable resource: animal manure** - 9/30/14 - The U.S. is belatedly making great strides on becoming more energy-efficient and carbon-friendly. Huge new solar and wind farms dot the countryside. But there's one plentiful, renewable resource that America is overlooking: animal manure.

[http://www.slate.com/articles/business/moneybox/2014/09/america\\_is\\_overlooking\\_a\\_plentiful\\_renewable\\_resource\\_animal\\_manure.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/business/moneybox/2014/09/america_is_overlooking_a_plentiful_renewable_resource_animal_manure.html)

**Kalona News (Iowa) - Cheese processing plant had discharge violations** - 10/1/14 - Both the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had been working with Twin Counties Dairy in regard to pollutant discharges before the announced closure of Twin Counties Dairy, says Terry Jones, an environmental specialist based in Washington with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. <http://www.kalonanews.com/articles/2014/10/01/news/doc542c320ddf835418825796.txt>

**Chemical & Engineering News - Fire Retardants Wash Out In Laundry** - 10/1/14 - The chemicals used in furniture and electronics may end up on clothing, wash off in laundry, and make their way to rivers and lakes. <http://cen.acs.org/articles/92/web/2014/09/Fire-Retardants-Wash-Laundry.html>

**Wall Street Journal (blog) - Three Principles for Subsidizing Renewable Energy** - 10/1/14 - Renewable-energy production brings extra costs to the power system that should be managed and subsidized in the most effective way. Some of the biggest additional expenses tend to relate to production. <http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/2014/10/01/three-principles-for-subsidizing-renewable-energy/>

**Wall Street Journal (blog) - Google's Climate Name-Calling | Terrified at being called a 'denier,' it flings the accusation at others.** - 9/30/14 - Eric Schmidt always seemed a decent guy but we never had reason to ask if he was especially brave. Then came his long interview on a Washington radio show late last month, the closing minutes of which featured a caller's inquiry whether Google was still "supporting ALEC, which is that fund lobbyist in D.C. that are funding climate change deniers." <http://online.wsj.com/articles/holman-jenkins-googles-climate-name-calling-1412119264>

**Wall Street Journal (blog) - Let's Even the Playing Field for Renewable Energy** - 9/30/14 - What is the most cost-effective way to subsidize investment in renewable energy sources? The word "subsidy" is loaded with connotations that the government is "picking winners" when it provides support to certain energy industries and not to others. Instead, the question should be, "What is the most cost-effective way to level the playing field for renewable energy?" <http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/2014/09/30/lets-even-the-playing-field-for-renewable-energy/>

**The Hill - EPA: Greenhouse gases from major polluters grew last year** - 09/30/14 - Large industrial facilities emitted 20 million more metric tons of greenhouse gases, or a 0.6 percent increase, last year over 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/219316-epa-emissions-from-major-greenhouse-gas-polluters-grew-last-year>

**Huffington Post - U.S. Emissions Increased In 2013, According To EPA** - 9/30/14 - Emissions from power plants, refineries and other industrial facilities in the United States increased in 2013, up 20 million metric tons -- or 0.6 percent -- over the previous year, according to a new report from the Environmental Protection Agency released Tuesday. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/30/emissions-rose-2013\\_n\\_5907828.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/30/emissions-rose-2013_n_5907828.html)

**U.S. News & World Report - U.S. Carbon Pollution Rises, Reversing Downward Trend** - 9/30/14 - The country's carbon dioxide emissions increased last year, and may be tied to a strengthening economy. <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/09/30/us-carbon-pollution-rises-reversing-downward-trend>

**National Hog Farmer - Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture** - 9/29/14 - Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Secretary of State John Kerry announced the launch of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. The Alliance is to promote greater international engagement on ways agriculture can help reduce the impact of climate change. <http://nationalhogfarmer.com/business/global-alliance-climate-smart-agriculture>

**The Atlantic - The Illusion of "Natural"** - 9/30/14 - Misunderstandings of purity fuel fears of toxins and vaccines, but the lines between humans, technology, and the environment are far blurrier than those who avoid the artificial realize. <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/09/the-illusion-of-natural/380836/>

**Bloomberg View - Carbon Taxes Don't Kill Jobs** - 9/30/14 - Where they've been tried, the evidence shows, well-designed carbon taxes have succeeded in reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. But that doesn't necessarily end the debate over their effects -- nor should it. The next question is whether that success is bought at the expense of jobs and incomes. <http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2014-09-30/carbon-taxes-don-t-kill-jobs>

**Forbes - Reports: A Guide To Boosting Solar Energy Demand** - 9/29/14 - How can solar become the largest source of electricity in the world one day? The International Energy Agency released two reports on Monday to tell you how. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/uciliawang/2014/09/29/report-a-guide-to-boosting-solar-energy-demand/>

**The Hill (blog) - Salazar: All of the above' approach for energy and the economy** - 10/1/14 - One of the most important policy areas, and one that impacts every minute of our daily lives, is energy. For most Americans, electricity is a keystone to our quality of life. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/219363-all-of-the-above-approach-for-energy-and-the-economy>

**The Hill - Administration launches climate competition** - 10/1/14 - The Obama administration launched a competition Wednesday aimed at helping cities and towns cut greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/219413-administration-launches-climate-competition-for-cities>

**Greenwire - Warring camps seem to agree: It's the economy, stupid** - 10/1/14 - The fight over global warming in Washington, D.C., has shifted from climate science to the dismal science. It's all economy, all the time. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006719/>

**Greenwire - McCarthy: 'I need a more diverse agency'** - 10/1/14 - Gina McCarthy wants more diversity in the ranks at U.S. EPA. Speaking today at a meeting of the agency's environmental justice advisers in Arlington, Va., the EPA boss framed the issue bluntly: "I need a more diverse agency at EPA." She called on the gathering of environmental justice leaders and activists to help the agency recruit a more diverse workforce. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006718/>

**Greenwire - Voters want regs enforced -- poll** - 10/1/14 - A vast majority of voters want government rules and regulations enforced, according to a poll released today. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006733/>

**Greenwire - Coalition of utilities asks court to reconsider far-reaching transmission rule** -

10/1/14 - A group of nonprofit utilities this week petitioned a federal appeals court to reconsider its August decision to uphold Order 1000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's landmark ruling that overhauls the process for upgrading the country's aging electric grid. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006734/>

**E&E News PM - EPA allows hundreds of hazardous chemicals to pass through treatment plants unnoticed -- IG report** - 9/29/14 - Hundreds of different types of hazardous chemicals are passing through sewage treatment plants and into the country's rivers and streams unnoticed, according to a new report from U.S. EPA's inspector general. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060006587/>

**Greenwire - EPA science advisers back contentious rule proposal** - 9/30/14 - A panel of 52 scientific advisers to U.S. EPA is declaring that the agency's controversial water proposal is supported by science and in fact should be more expansive. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006639/>

**Greenwire - EPA alters fuel-petition process in bid to speed approvals** - 10/1/14 - U.S. EPA announced changes yesterday to its renewable fuel petition process aimed at reducing bottlenecks that biofuel producers say have stymied investment. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006722/>

**Greenwire - Sierra Club political arm pumps \$1M into Senate race opposing Ernst** - 9/30/14 - Sierra Club Independent Action is pumping \$1 million into the Iowa Senate race in opposition to Republican candidate Joni Ernst. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006619/>

**Greenwire - Agency pushing loan guarantees to underwrite nuclear innovation** - 9/30/14 - The Department of Energy is preparing to empty its loan guarantee piggy bank with a multibillion-dollar push to underwrite the development of innovative nuclear energy systems. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006643/>

## Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>



**Protecting Children in the Heartland: EPA Region 7, Partners and Public Observe Children's Health Month throughout October** – 10/1/14 – Contact: David Bryan, 7433

## **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

## **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**10/1/14** – Meeting with Jason Klumb, Regional Administrator for GSA, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**10/2/14** – Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

**10/4/14** – Iowa Sierra Club Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**10/3/14** – Iowa Water Challenges Outreach Event with Brody Middle School, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**10/9/14** – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

**10/10/14** – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**\*10/21-22/14** – EPA Lean Summit, Washington, D.C. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

**10/30/14** – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

**11/12/14** – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on "Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

**11/18/14** – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

## **DRA:**

**10/1/14** – Meeting with Jason Klumb, Regional Administrator for GSA, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**10/7/14** - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

**10/30/14** – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

**11/12/14** – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on "Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

## **RA/Immediate Office**

None

## **Other Events**

### **AWMD**

None

### **CNSL**

None

### **ECO/EJ**

**10/5-8/14** – Superfund 101 Training, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: A. Moses, 7649

**10/19-22/14** – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, D.C., Contact: D. Singletary, x7373

### **ENSV**

None

### **PLMG**

None

### **RA/OPA**

**10/14/14** – Attend West Lake Landfill CAG meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

### **SUPR**

**10/7/14** – Greater St. Louis Sub-Area Committee, Industry Day Workshop for spill response strategies on the lower Missouri River, St. Charles, Mo. – Contact: Jeff Weatherford 636-326-4720

**10/22/14** – Public Availability Session to discuss remedial action and the Five Year Review for the Parkview Well Site, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Brad Vann, 7611

### **WWPD**

**9/30-10/2/14** – North Central Region Water Network's Water Resource Management Conference, Bloomington, Minn. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

**10/8-9/14** – 2014 National CAFO Roundtable, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**10/15-16/14** – Big River Task Force Meeting with Other State and Federal Agencies, Farmington, Mo. Contact: Jeannette Schafer, 7297

**10/20-21/14** – Hypoxia Task Force Meeting, Alton, Ill. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**11/3-6/14** – EPA Tribal 106 Coordinators Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

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**Wall Street Journal**

## **Three Principles for Subsidizing Renewable Energy**

October 1, 2014

IVÁN MARTÉN: Renewable-energy production brings extra costs to the power system that should be managed and subsidized in the most effective way. Some of the biggest additional expenses tend to relate to production: Even though costs have dropped as the industry gains experience, renewable energy is still more expensive than conventional technologies. The new investments required to ensure high-quality power in the distribution and transmission networks, such as deviations management and new metering systems, as well as in conventional technologies that can supply backup power, also add significant cost.

All of these factors must be fully considered to efficiently remunerate renewable-energy providers.

Three basic principles both define an efficient remuneration model for renewable-energy sources and ensure that the sources are technically and economically sustainable.

First, introduce mechanisms for automatically reviewing renewable-energy subsidies. Those subsidies should be dynamically adjusted depending on changes in investment costs and in operation and maintenance costs. Germany, for example, regularly adjusts its subsidies for renewable energy and reduces them every year to promote renewable energy's competitiveness with conventional technologies.

Second, consider and minimize the need for developing new transmission and distribution networks and strengthen the mechanisms for financing the required infrastructure. For example, Spain offers new incentives that reinforce networks so that they totally align with the new renewable-energy capacity in the country's electricity system.

Third, ensure the economic viability of using conventional plants to provide backup power during times when utilization of renewable sources is low, and promote mechanisms for minimizing renewable-technology deviations.

The final objective is to design models for integrating renewable energy into the power market that minimize the impact on wholesale electricity prices. Underestimating the resources needed to develop renewable energy in the entire power system can create competitive distortions in the power market and generate insufficient income for meeting all of the incurred costs.

Iván Martén is a senior partner at the Boston Consulting Group, and the global leader of its energy practice.

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**Wall Street Journal**

## **Google's Climate Name-Calling**



Terrified at being called a 'denier,' it flings the accusation at others.

By HOLMAN W. JENKINS, JR.  
Sept. 30, 2014 7:21 p.m. ET

Eric Schmidt always seemed a decent guy but we never had reason to ask if he was especially brave.

Then came his long interview on a Washington radio show late last month, the closing minutes of which featured a caller's inquiry whether Google was still "supporting ALEC, which is that fund lobbyist in D.C. that are funding climate change deniers."

Google's chairman confessed his company had joined the American Legislative Exchange Council, a group that promotes business-friendly policies at the state level, for "something unrelated" but had recently quit. Ranted Mr. Schmidt: "Everyone understands climate change is occurring. And the people who oppose it are really hurting our children and our grandchildren and making the world a much worse place. And so we should not be aligned with such people. They're just literally lying."

ALEC doesn't take a position on climate change. The worst that anyone can find on its website is a claim that climate change would be a mixed bag for the U.S.—which is certainly true. Ask Canada or Russia, which hope to benefit from arctic development. Ask former Obama regulatory czar Cass Sunstein, an expert on cost-benefit analysis, who has written that the U.S. has relatively little to fear from climate change compared to other nations.

ALEC does oppose renewable-energy subsidies, but that doesn't require having an opinion on climate change since, despite the considerable expense of taxpayer money, handouts to solar or wind have no discernible effect on climate change. And, yes, Google has been helping itself to these subsidies as a two-fer, to get taxpayers to pay for its considerable energy consumption and to clothe itself in appealing green.

But something else may explain Mr. Schmidt's tirade. Google itself has been a target of castigation, as in a San Francisco Chronicle headline that blared: "Despite recent split from conservative group, Google's connections to climate change denial runs deep."

Mr. Schmidt has been personally pilloried by activists and bloggers for donating to "deniers," i.e. Republicans, in Congress.

In the Salem witch trials, the best defense against being called a witch was to call someone else a witch. Hey, it was the coward's way out but it was still a way out. Then again, when certain people in society are vested with wealth and authority and all the immunities these gifts bring, perhaps they could take the risk of setting a better example.

Even if you suppose the range of future temperature predicted by climate models is reliable, that range still is the difference between efforts to affect climate change being a plausible use of money and a terrible waste of it—which means a debate must be had.

Even those who spent the early 2000s defending Michael Mann's hockey stick must notice how thoroughly the bottom has fallen out of such efforts directly to link human greenhouse-gas emissions and global average temperature. And no wonder given the absence of significant warming over the past 15 years, even as temperature measurement has become more rigorous and consistent, and even as China's mountainous emissions have hit the global climate system. The action today is all toward complex climate models that, whatever their merits, are implicitly based on the recognition that any human effect doesn't just jump out at us amid a welter of poorly understood natural variation.

All this still counts as scientific progress, even if some might wonder about an investment of billions that only produces deep uncertainty. Yet along the way has come the perverse growth of the term "denier" not for those (if any exist) who deny any possible human impact on climate, but for anyone who does not join in demanding the issue be treated with maximal urgency above every other consideration.

Who has not witnessed the crucifixion of an apostate by dinner companions claiming to be "passionate" about global warming. Not so passionate, of course, that they could say, within a factor of 100, what the carbon dioxide constituent of the atmosphere is. Not so passionate that they could name a climate "scientist" except Al Gore.

How is it possible to be passionate about a subject and not passionate to know something about it? This question is better left unmentioned.

A reasonable climate researcher like Georgia Tech's Judith Curry will be vilified for suggesting that the "institutions of science are so mired in advocacy on the topic of dangerous anthropogenic climate change that the checks and balances in science, particularly with regard to minority perspectives, are broken."

Yet a deranged and unhappy nothing-burger like Robert F. Kennedy Jr. accrues only admirers for saying that climate skeptics should be jailed.

Much about the human animal remains inspiring and worth preserving, but humanity's redeeming qualities are easy to forget while watching the climate debate. Except for certain questions about the Prophet in Muslim lands, no subject more frequently brings out the worst in people, as it has Google's Mr. Schmidt.

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**Wall Street Journal**

## **Let's Even the Playing Field for Renewable Energy**

10/1/14

BILL RITTER: What is the most cost-effective way to subsidize investment in renewable energy sources? The word "subsidy" is loaded with connotations that the government is "picking winners" when it provides support to certain energy industries and not to others. Instead, the question should be, "What is the most cost-effective way to level the playing field for renewable energy?"

It is important not to demonize well-designed energy subsidies when they are clearly in the national interest. There has been no time in modern history that the federal government has not provided tax breaks and other benefits to one energy industry or another, going back to land grants for timber and coal production in the 1800s. In principle, targeted subsidies are warranted when an important emerging energy technology cannot achieve commercialization without help.

There is another way, however, that government can stimulate investments in a wide variety of energy resources. This type of fiscal policy provides tax incentives for private capital to flow into the energy resources that investors believe offer the highest returns or the greatest potential.

Two examples that have drawn attention recently are real-estate investment trusts (REITs) and master limited partnerships (MLPs). Both provide tax advantages and access to low-cost capital for fossil-energy investors. Until recently, neither extended the same benefits to renewable energy.

In May, the Obama administration used its executive authority to allow REITs for certain types of solar-generating equipment. That was a first step to what we might call "investment parity" in federal policy. The next logical step is to give renewable-energy investors the same access to MLPs as fossil-energy investors have.

Legislation to do this, the Master Limited Partnership Parity Act, has bipartisan support in Congress, but it reportedly has stalled. Some members have conditioned their support on the elimination of the production tax credit (PTC) for wind energy and the investment tax credit (ITC) for solar energy. According to one report, these members argue it would be redundant to open MLPs to renewable-energy technologies while targeted solar and wind tax credits remain in place.

Yet, fossil fuels enjoy a variety of targeted tax benefits as well as MLPs. Denying the same mix to renewable energy investors perpetuates federal policies that have long picked fossil fuels as the winners. The PTC/ITC and MLPs should not be an either/or issue. Both belong in an intelligent mix of tax policies that create more robust market competition on a more level playing field.

In addition, opening MLPs to renewable-energy investment is consistent with the "all of the above" energy strategy advocated both by President Obama and the Republican Party. I

am confident that as various renewable energy technologies become ready for full-scale commercialization, they will compete very well.

In the absence of access to MLPs, private investors and state governments are creating other ways to capitalize emerging clean-energy technologies. Renewable-energy bonds, green-energy banks, crowdfunding and “yield cos” are among recent innovations.

Nevertheless, a great deal of private capital remains sidelined, waiting for stable and equitable federal energy policies. If we really believe in letting all market-ready energy options slug it out in robust competition, then we shouldn’t ask that federal policies fix the fight. But that is what happens when renewable-energy investors are barred from the tax incentives that investors in fossil fuels enjoy.

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